Supply of natural gas to Rajasthan

2471. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special price for use of natural gas, supplied by M/s Oil India Limited, New Delhi to Rajasthan works out to be more than Rs. 3057/- per thousand SCM including transportation charges, as against the average price of Rs. 1783 per thousand SCM;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a high price for the natural gas supplied to Rajasthan; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to supply natural gas to Rajasthan at an equitable price in line with the average national price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) In pursuance to Government decision in 1997, the consumer price of natural gas at landfall points effective from 01.10.97 was linked to the price of a basket of Low Sulphur/ Heavy Stock (LS/HS) fuel oil progressively bringing it on parity with the international price of crude oil. The natural gas price is charged at uniform rate of Rs. 2850 per thousand standard cubic metres (MCM) at 10,000 K. Cal. per Standard Cubic Metre (SCM) from general consumers in the country including Rajasthan except North Eastern Region, where the gas is sold at concessional price of Rs. 1700/MCM at 10,000 K.Cal/SCM. The transportation charges and royalty, taxes, duties and other statutory levies are extra.